

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 SSM-03 /076 W

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R 191540Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL PORT SAID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 6892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IN RIYADH

1. CAIRO EDITORIALS MAY 19 REFLECT VIEWS OF ARABS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN IN LAST FEW DAYS RE HOPEFUL SUCCESS OF RIYADH MEETING OF THE SYRIAN, EGYPTIAN SAUDI, AND KUWAITI PRIMINS. GUMHURIYYA SAYS "HOPES ARE PINNED ON CONFERENCE TO RESTORE EGYPT AND SYRIA TO SPIRIT OF COMMON ACTION WHICH PREVAILED IN OCTOBER WAR." AKHBAR WORRIES THAT ESCALATING BLOODSHED IN LEBANON IS IN PART DUE TO "FIREIGN HANDS" BUT ALSO HOPES THAT WISDOM OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IN LEBANON CAN BRING SOLUTION.

2. MEDIA REPORTS KING KHALID PHONED SADAT EVENING MAY 18 TO DISCUSS "CURRENT ARAB SITUATION". SADAT IS REPORTED TO HAVE DEFINED FOR HIS ADVISORS THREE PRINCIPLES OF EGYPT'S ARAB POLICY:

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RESPECT OF ARAB SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS, UNITY OF ARAB RANKS,

AND PROMOTING ARAB CAUSE AND ESPECIALLY PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN OBSERVERS ARE BEGINNING TO TALK AS THOUGH PRESIDENT SADAT HAS BEEN RIGHT FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THEY NOTE THAT SYRIA SEEMS UNABLE TO EXTRACT ITSELF FROM LEBANESE MORASS, AS PRESIDENT HAD PREDICTED. FURTHERMORE, GOE, PERHAPS MORE BY LUCK THAN GOOD PLANNING, SEEMS TO HAVE EXTRICATED ITSELF IN EYES OF MUSLIMS FROM PUBLIC IMAGE OF BEING PROTECTOR OF MORONITE CHRISTIANS, AND SYRIA NOW HAS THAT REPUTATION. EGYPTIANS ALSO NOTE CONTINUING REPORTS FROM WITHIN SYRIA OF DISAFFECTION AGAINST SARG'S LEBANESE POLICY. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE GENERAL SATISFACTION HERE THAT SYRIA SEEMS TO HAVE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN IT CAN CHEW, HOPES ARE HIGH THAT RIYADH MEETING WILL LEAD TO RECONCILIATION, WHICH IN TURN MIGHT REINFUSE LIFE TO PEACE PROCESS. ON OTHER HAND, NO ONE HERE EXPECTS FAHMY TO KNUCKLE UNDER IN ANY WAY TO SYRIAN "CONDITIONS" FOR SUCH RECONCILIATION, PARTICULARLY IF THEY SHOULD INVOLVE ANY EGYPTIAN RETREAT FROM SINAI II.

EILTS

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